dumping legislation is recommended in this regard.

—Countervailing duties (CVD) should take into account incidences of unusually high export subsidies on exports in these countries and sales tax and other domestic indirect taxes.

—A switch to the value added tax (VAT) as an encompassing indirect tax is recommended.

Recommendations of the Expert Group of tariff reduction are subject to the following conditions:

—Domestic feed stocks must be available at international prices.

—Capital goods duty should be brought down to 10%.

—Import duty in catalysts, chemicals and additives used as consumables by the industry should be at 10%.

—CVD should neutralise the disadvantage of local taxes and duties on domestic production. Sales tax, turn-over tax, pruchase tax, surcharge on sales tax should be compensated by their inclusion in the CVD.

—A gradual and phased reduction in the import duty instead of drastic reduction is essential in view of the current worldwide over built capacity leading to softness of prices.

—The lowering of tariffs systems sensitive to respond to the volative international prices should be built in.

—To stimulate domestic demand and to conserve scarce materials like wood, leather and metals local excise duties should be reduced on petrochemicals substitutes of these items in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The Report is available for sale and can be purchased from Petrochemicals Data Service, C 873—876, Sector I, Petrochemicals Township, Vadodara—391345. Price is Rs. 22,000/- per set.

(e) Does not arise.

Recommendatory Letters from M.Ps. for Rail Bookings

*409. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendatory letters from M.Ps. for the release of berth/seats from the Emergency Quota are not being given due consideration;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to give priority to the recommendations from the M.Ps.; and

(d) the number of such requests received from the M.Ps. by Government in the last 12 months and number of requests rejected month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) Requests received from the Members of Parliament for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota for their own journeys and in favour of their family members are mostly honoured.

Requests of Members of Parliament for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota for journey of others are considered on merit depending on factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness etc.

Since a large number of requests are received from various quarters and are dealth with on day-to-day basis, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests.

No statistics of requests received from various quarters including M.Ps. are being maintained.